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ABSTRACT

The vast resources of the Internet are increasingly available to administrators, school library media specialists, and classroom teachers. This updated digest lists various information resources available to K-12 educators over the Internet. Topics include: guides to Internet resources; lesson plans; keypals and pen pals; acceptable use policies; technology plans for K-12 schools; Internet projects for the classroom; grant information; government information; state education departments; electronic books; reference resources; library catalogs; and other resources. (Contains 11 references.) (BEW)

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ERIC Digest:
An Introduction to Internet Resources for K-12 Educators Part I: Information Resources, Update 1996

by Nancy A. Morgan
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DIGEST

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An Introduction to Internet Resources for K-12 Educators
Part I: Information Resources, Update 1996

by Nancy A. Morgan

The Internet is an international computer network composed of thousands of smaller networks. Recently, through state and regional education networks and commercial providers, the vast resources of the Internet are increasingly available to administrators, school library media specialists, and classroom teachers. This digest lists a sample of no cost Internet resources of special interest to K-12 educators.

Readers should be aware that the resources and their Internet addresses below are subject to change.

Guides to Internet Resources:

Clearinghouse for Subject-Oriented Internet Resource Guides: A large collection of guides to Internet resources categorized by topic.

- Gopher Address: una.hh.lib.umich.edu
  —>inetdirs/
- Gopher URL: gopher://una.hh.lib.umich.edu:70/11/inetdirs
- WWW URL: http://www.lib.umich.edu/chhome.html

Lesson Plans:

The AskERIC Virtual Library contains hundreds of lesson plans, including, but not limited to, language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. Also included are the electronic versions of *CNN Newsroom Classroom Guides* and lesson plans from *School Library Media Activities Monthly*.

- Gopher Address: ericir.syr.edu
- Telnet Address: ericir.syr.edu, login as "gopher"
- Gopher URL: gopher://ericir.syr.edu
- WWW URL: http://ericir.syr.edu

Keypals and Penpals:

• IECC - Intercultural E-mail Classroom Connections maintains a suite of listservs that facilitate international and cross-cultural classroom exchanges via e-mail over the Internet.

Archives and general information can be found on the St. Olaf's gopher server:

- Gopher Address: gopher.stolaf.edu
  —>Internet Resources
  —>St. Olaf Sponsored Mailing Lists
- Gopher URL: gopher://gopher.stolaf.edu:70/11/

Acceptable Use Policies:

Schools which provide Internet access to students and staff have created policies and agreements for the appropriate use of Internet accounts. Samples of agreements, policies and opinion pieces have been collected at Armadillo: The Texas Studies Gopher.

- Gopher Address: riceinfo.rice.edu 1170
  —>More About Armadillo and Other Gophers/
  —>Acceptable and Unacceptable Use of Net Resources (K12)/
- Gopher URL: gopher://riceinfo.rice.edu:1170/11/More/Acceptable
- WWW URL: http://chico.rice.edu/armadillo/Rice/Resources/acceptable.html

Technology Plans for K-12 Schools:

The National Center for Technology Planning collects technology plans and makes them freely available over the Internet. Other documents that are available include planning aids such as checklists and forms, and electronic monographs.

- Gopher Address: gopher.msstate.edu
  —>National Center for Technology Planning
  —>Resources Maintained at MsState University/
- Gopher URL: gopher://gopher.msstate.edu:70/11/Online_services/nctp/

Internet Projects for the Classroom:

Examples of telecommunication projects that incorporate the use of the Internet in the classroom can be found on the following sites:

• UMass K-12 Gopher: Several telecommunication projects are listed, including guidelines from the Global SchoolNet to help teachers plan a successful project.

- Gopher Address: k12.ucs.umass.edu
  —>Telecommunications Projects/
- Gopher URL: gopher://k12.oit.umass.edu:70/11/projects

• NYSERNet: Empire Internet Schoolhouse (K-12) Gopher.

- Gopher Address: nysernet.org 3000
  —>Assembly Hall for Projects and Discussions
  —>Invitation to join Internet Projects/
- Gopher URL: gopher://nysernet.org:3000/11/

Grant Information:

A Teacher's Guide to the U.S. Department of Education describes programs, services, and publications, including educational grants provided by the U.S. Department of Education.

- Gopher Address: gopher.ed.gov
  —>U.S. Department of Education Programs-General Information/
  —>A Teacher's Guide to the U.S. Dept. of Education/
- Gopher URL: gopher://gopher.ed.gov:70/11/gen_progs/teach_guide
- WWW URL: http://www.ed.gov/pubs/TeachersGuide

Government Information:

The number of Internet sites sponsored by government agencies continue to increase. Some examples are:

• Library of Congress Marvel: provides links to many federal agencies:

- Gopher Address: marvel.loc.gov
- Gopher URL: gopher://marvel.loc.gov:70/11/
- WWW URL: http://marvel.loc.gov/

• Welcome to the Whitehouse

- WWW URL: http://www.whitehouse.gov

State Education Departments:

This is a partial list of Internet sites run by state departments of education:

• Michigan Department of Education: MDEnet provides direct access to several K-12 gophers, State Board of Education approved curriculum goals and objectives, and links to several free-nets.
- Gopher Address: gopher.mde.state.mi.us
- Gopher URL: gopher://gopher.mde.state.mi.us:70/1
- WWW URL: http://web.mde.state.mi.us

• California Department of Education: Provides up-to-date information, including selective legislative and California State Board of Education information, education conferences, a technology planning guide for California schools, and the Bilingual Education Network (BIEN).
- Gopher Address: goldmine.cde.ca.gov
- Gopher URL: gopher://goldmine.cde.ca.gov:70/1
- WWW URL: http://goldmine.cde.ca.gov/

Electronic Books:

• Project Gutenberg: Classic, religious and children's books, poetry, and historical documents in full text.
- Gopher Address: spinaltap.micro.umn.edu
- Gopher URL: gopher://spinaltap.micro.umn.edu:70/11/
- WWW URL: http://jg.cso.uiuc.edu/PG/welcome.html

Reference Resources:

• The Libraries of Purdue University: The Virtual Reference Desk: An extensive collection of online "ready reference" resources, such as dictionaries, thesauri, phone books and zip codes.
- WWW URL: http://thorplus.lib.purdue.edu/reference/index.html

• Florida Tech Education Gopher: Access to a nice collection of reference sources including the *American English Dictionary*, *Roget's Thesaurus*, the *U.S. Zip Code Directory*, and the *CIA World Fact Book*.
- Gopher Address: sci-ed.fit.edu 70
  —>Reference Desk
- Gopher URL: gopher://sci-ed.fit.edu:70/1

Library Catalogs:

• Yale University: Provides easy access to library catalogs worldwide. Users can browse through a geographic listing, or search by institution, library name or city. Helpful instructions, organized by catalog type, are also provided.
- Gopher Address: libgopher.yale.edu
- Gopher URL: gopher://libgopher.yale.edu:70/11/

• Library of Congress: Provides access to the holdings of the Library of Congress, U.S. Government copyright files, federal legislation, and foreign law.
- Telnet Address: locis.loc.gov

Other Resources:

Hundreds of resources covering almost every subject imaginable exist on the Internet. Here are some additional ones that would be of special interest to K-12 educators:

• ACCESS ERIC: Gateway to the Internet sites of the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC).
- Gopher Address: gopher.aspensys.com
- WWW URL: http://www.aspensys.com/eric2/welcome.html

• Consortium for School Networking (CoSN):
- WWW URL: http://www.cosn.org

• Kid's Web: A World Wide Web Digital Library for Schoolkids.
- WWW URL: http://www.npac.syr.edu:80/textbook/kidsweb/

• NASA Spacelink: Information about NASA, including the space shuttle program, and science curriculum activities.
- Gopher Address: spacelink.msfc.nasa.gov
- Gopher URL: gopher://spacelink.msfc.nasa.gov:70/1
- Telnet Address: spacelink.msfc.nasa.gov
  login as "newuser," password "newuser"
- WWW URL: http://spacelink.msfc.nasa.gov

• Roadmap: An Internet Training Workshop.
- Gopher Address: ua1vm.ua.edu
  —>Network Resources, Services, and Information
- Gopher URL: gopher://ua1vm.ua.edu
- WWW URL: http://ua1vm.ua.edu/~crispen/roadmap.html

• Web 66: A K-12 WWW Project from the University of Minnesota.
- WWW URL: http://web66.coled.umn.edu/

• Yahoo: A hierarchical subject-oriented catalog for the World Wide Web and Internet.
- WWW URL: http://www.yahoo.com/

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